



Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative

Home of St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist Parish Families

Local Pastoral Plan

Our Collaborative Purpose

The Chelmsford Catholic Collaborative is called to share the truth of the Gospel with compassion, reverence, and vibrancy, and to welcome, minister to, and inspire all, so that we may nurture our relationships with Christ and attract others to experience Him in their lives.

Our Collaborative Values:

Intentionality: We are a Christian people and what we do is rooted in Christ. As a people who endeavor to be authentic imitators and disciples of Jesus Christ, we approach all that we do with discernment of purpose.

- We pray before and during important activities and meetings, seeking guidance and discernment.
- We reflect on our priorities, challenging ourselves to act in accordance with Christ's teachings and the teachings of His Church.
- We enter worship with a spirit of devotion, striving to achieve fully conscious, and active participation.
- We serve one another and our community as loving disciples of Jesus Christ.

Generosity of spirit: As a people who have experienced Christ's love, we want to share His love with others. Aware that all good things have come from and through God, we are moved to humbly offer our time, abilities, and resources for others.

- We make ourselves available to serve one another, our community, and those outside of our community.
- We give to those who are in need.
- We offer the first fruits of our labor to God.

Fellowship: Aware that Christ formed a community of disciples, we understand that a Christian life is not lived alone, but walked alongside others. We are made stronger by one another. We extend welcome, friendship, and belonging to seekers and believers.

- We greet one another with warmth, acceptance, and joy.
- We invite collaboration not only within each of the parish communities of St. John's and St. Mary's, but also between the two communities.
- We build relationships through liturgy, service, and social events.
- We deepen our faith and others' by bearing witness in word and deed.



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Our Collaborative Vision:

We aspire, through God's grace, to be a community that invites, inspires, and cultivates discipleship. All will be welcomed and encounter a Spirit of Joy rooted in our belief in Christ. Parishioners will feel valued and connected, offering themselves in meaningful ways to Christ's mission and to all facets of parish life. Each person will be supported and challenged on their faith journey, especially through engaging worship, diverse prayer opportunities, and catechesis for all age levels.

Our Collaborative Priorities:

1. Fostering Lifelong Faith Formation

Rationale: Our faith journey never ends. All must grow in their knowledge and love of Christ and His people to fulfill their missions as His disciples.

2. Encouraging meaningful connections and relationships throughout the Collaborative

Rationale: A full Christian life requires communal encouragement and support. Actively engaging in parish life allows us to make connections with other parishioners.

3. Providing outreach to the greater community through presence and service

Rationale: The Body of Christ is a community which expresses itself through welcoming, acceptance, mercy, and comfort. We follow the Great Commission by reaching out beyond our church walls.

4. Promoting a culture of vocations to the diocesan priesthood and marriage

Rationale: As a Christian people, we thrive by God's grace. We experience that grace through our priests' celebration of the sacraments and in our families, particularly in marriages centered in Christ.



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Our Collaborative Goals:

(See Local Pastoral Plan Goal Outline for implementation details on all goals)

For Priority #1: Fostering Lifelong Faith Formation

Goal: Increase by 10-20 the number of families actively engaged in parish life by May 31, 2021.

Key Strategies and Milestones:

- Develop a family-centered faith formation process that empowers parents as the primary educators of the faith for sacramental preparation and the intermediary years between First Eucharist and Confirmation (By Feb. 1, 2019)
- Communicate and prepare process (By Sept. 1, 2019)
- Families' engagement to be determined by initial *CCC Discipleship Survey* or by an equivalent metric (By Sept. 31, 2019)
- Implement and evaluate process (By July 15, 2020)
- Prepare, implement, observe, and evaluate the revised process, including re-conducting the *CCC Discipleship Survey* (By May 31, 2021)

Goal: Advance 15-20 adults along the Thresholds of Conversion and Phases of Intentional Discipleship by May 31, 2021.

Guided by the RCAB Document, *Forming Disciples: Living the Great Commission*, we will develop intentional pathways through the thresholds of conversion and phases of discipleship for the adults in our parishes.

Key Strategies and Milestones

- Form and train Adult Faith Formation Committee to develop intentional pathways along the thresholds of conversion and phases of discipleship for the adults in our parishes (By June, 2018)
- Investigate and select process(es) (By May 31, 2019)
- Prepare and implement selected process(es) (By May 31, 2020)



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For Priority #2: Encouraging meaningful connections and relationships throughout the Collaborative

Goal: Run monthly connection activities within each parish that coincide with Mass as well as two annual events aimed at encouraging connections and fostering new, stronger ties, by May 31, 2021.

Key Strategies and Milestones:

- Establish a Steering Committee (By Oct. 14, 2017)
- Create, prepare, and implement calendar of activities for first year (By June 1, 2019)
- Create, prepare, and implement calendar of activities for second year (By June 1, 2020)
- Hold two annual events (By May 31, 2021)

Goal: Establish a Collaborative Ambassadors Ministry within each parish by May 31, 2019.

Collaborative Ambassadors Ministry will be knowledgeable, welcoming volunteers who can guide new and existing parishioners by answering questions, providing material and being a positive, present resource at Mass.

Key Strategies and Milestones:

- Establish a Steering Committee (By Oct. 31, 2017)
- Plan group's role in the parishes (June 1, 2018)

For Priority #3: Outreach to the greater community through presence and service

Goal: Run at least three events annually where the CCC is represented in the local community by May 31, 2019.

These events allow us to be bearers of Christ's message of love, mercy, and peace to the greater world.

Key Strategies and Milestones:

- Establish Steering Committee (Oct. 31, 2017)
- Identify and plan for three community presence/outreach events (May 31, 2018)
- Recruit and provide formation for members of Outreach ministry (May 31, 2018)
- Implement and evaluate three community presence/outreach events (May 31, 2019)

For Priority #4: Promoting a culture of vocations to the diocesan priesthood and marriage

Goal: Implement two to three activities annually focused on vocational exploration for young men and families by May 31, 2019.

Key Strategies and Milestones:

- Establish a Vocations Team (January 31, 2018)
- Identify and plan for one to three activities on priestly vocations and on the vocation of marriage (May 31, 2018)
- Implement and evaluate one to three activities (May 31, 2019)